



Protect
Yourself
From

Carjacking

"Carjacking" refers to the robbery of a motorist in which their vehicle is stolen. It is more serious than auto theft because the victim is present during the crime. Motorists are vulnerable nearly any time they stop their vehicle.

Before You Go

- Memorize the license plate number, year, and make of your vehicle.
- Select safe routes avoiding shortcuts.
- Have an alternate route in mind just in case.
- Tell someone what route you're taking and when you should arrive.
- Avoid traveling alone or at night.
- Request a car with no rental sticker which may target you as a tourist.
- Keep doors locked, windows up, convertible tops up, and sunroofs closed if you feel uncomfortable.
- Keep items of value out of view.
- Keep your car keys separate from your house and office keys. Never hide a spare set on your car.
- Do not leave personal papers in your vehicle including vehicle registration or items with your address or phone number.
- Carry a cell phone.
- Be sure your driveway and garage are well-lit.
- Install an automatic garage-door opener. Stay inside your locked car until it's closed.
- Consider a vehicle tracking device that may not only deter a thief, but also aid in your vehicle's recovery if it is stolen.



Any
car can
be a target
not just
expensive
sports
cars.

Getting There Safely

- Leave extra room between your vehicle and others to allow a way out in an emergency.
- Drive on an inside lane making it harder for a carjacker to approach.
- Use all mirrors to monitor your surroundings.
- Be suspicious of anyone approaching your vehicle. Keep the car in gear, so you can move quickly.
- If someone asks for assistance, tells you something is wrong with your car, or you are intentionally struck from behind, **DO NOT** get out of your vehicle. Motion for the driver to follow you to a safe, well-lit location or use a phone to call authorities.

Carjackings most often occur:

- to males and females in equal numbers most often 30 years old and older.
- to any type of vehicle in any condition.
- in cities and suburban areas.
- to motorists traveling alone, after dark.
- over the weekend - Friday through Monday.

The Window of Opportunity

Carjackers may choose to "make their move" at stop lights or stop signs, garages, parking lots for convenience or party stores, self-serve gas stations, car washes, drive-up pay telephones, and other places where business is conducted from your car and you tend to leave your car unprotected.

When You Arrive

- Park in garages with an attendant.
- Leave the ignition key only never your house or office keys.
- Park in well-lit, well-traveled areas within sight and shouting distance of others.
- Scan the area for suspicious persons and possible hiding places.
- Avoid parking near anything that limits visibility.
- If you feel uncomfortable, DO NOT get out of your vehicle. Leave and park somewhere else.
- Lock your car, roll up your windows, put up convertible roofs, close sunroofs, and take your keys with you even when getting gas or when running brief errands.
- Be especially cautious when using Automated Teller Machines (ATMs). Never use them at night.

**Keep your tank full of gas
and your vehicle in good working order.
Gas up during daylight hours.**

Returning To Your Vehicle

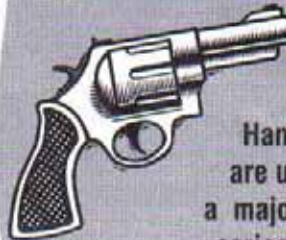
- Be aware of anyone loitering near your vehicle.
- Have your keys out, ready to use.
- Look inside and under your vehicle before getting in. Check handles, locks, the back seat, and floorboard before entering.
- Be aware of any tampering to your parked vehicle. If you think that your vehicle has been tampered with, DO NOT get in. Notify local law enforcement immediately.

Always be aware of your surroundings.

If Confronted

- If a carjacker asks you to get out of the car assume that the carjacker means everyone. Get out as quickly as possible.
- Blow your horn loudly, flash your lights, and try to keep driving.
- And, if someone demands your car keys, DO NOT RESIST.

Experts caution that resisting or attempting to flee may place you in greater danger. Your personal safety - not the potential loss of your car - should be your primary concern. If a firearm is involved, fleeing may increase your chances of serious injury or death.



**Handguns
are used in
a majority of
carjackings.**

If It Happens To You

- Report any incidents to local law enforcement right away.
- Give a full description of your car and license plate number.
- Give a full description of the carjacker(s) including - sex, race, age, hair, eye color, unusual features, and clothing.
- Describe any vehicles involved and the direction of the escape.
- Change locks immediately if house or office keys are taken. If a garage door opener was taken, change the security code.